



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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Dear Student Advisory Board Member,

As a member of the 2011-2012 State Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, I want to thank you for your commitment to this very important group. As you know, the Student Advisory Board (SAB) consists of 40 students from 30 Montana schools and represents all 142,082 Montana K-12 students. You provide a much needed student perspective on state policy and your input will help guide the K-12 education system into the future.

As a board member, you are part of Graduation Matters Montana, a new state initiative to help high schools increase the graduation rates and ensure students are prepared for college and careers. Right now, too many students drop out of high school. We have been working hard since last year's summit to incorporate member ideas into the policy initiatives we are developing. I am excited to have new members who will bring new perspectives and voices to our conversations on graduation and dropout prevention and to welcome our returning alumni.

As State Superintendent, I am well aware of the seriousness of young people not receiving a high school diploma. I believe that students are the most important voice in helping schools to better address these issues. I also want to ensure every Montana student has the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Our schools must prepare students for higher education and careers.

OBJECTIVES OF GRADUATION MATTERS MONTANA

1. Increase the rate of Montana students graduating from high school ready for college and the 21st century workforce.
2. Establish a support network between schools, businesses, and community organizations for student success.
3. Create school-based and community-based opportunities to inspire students to stay in school and graduate.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Helena on November 9 and 10, 2011. I believe with hard work and thoughtfulness we can identify ways to reach your classmates across the state to share with them the value of education.

Please complete the Participant Agreement forms and plan to bring it with you to the summit. Information is also available online at http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/Graduation_Matters/index.html.

Sincerely,

Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction